

## Message Text

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SUBJECT: NATO SCIENCE-SCIENCE COMMITTEE MEETING AT NATO, MAY  
27-28; BUDGETARY PROPOSALS

REF: A. USNATO 2385

B. USNATO 3997

BEGIN SUMMARY: SCIENCE COMMITTEE (SC) WILL CONSIDER PROPOSED  
SICENCE PROGRAM BUDGET FOR 1975 (AC/137-D/540) AND CONTINUATION  
IN 1975 BUDGET OF EXISTING PROVISION FOR FULL-TIME CONSULTANT  
ON SICIENCE PROGRAM (AC/137-D/539). GUIDANCE REQUESTED BY MAY 20.  
END SUMMARY.

1. 1975 NATO SCIENCE PROGRAM PRELIMINARY BUDGET ESTIMATE CALLS  
FOR 298 MILLION BF, AN INCREASE OF 31 MILLION BF, OR 11.6  
PERCENT, OVER 1974 TO ALLOW FOR INCREASED COSTS FOR PROGRAM  
ACTIVITY AT SAME LEVEL. (THISIS WITHIN THE 309.1 MILLION BF  
INCLUDED FOR SCIENCE IN THE ESTIMATES OF 1975 REQUIREMENTS  
PREPARED FOR SUBMISSION TO OMB IN AUGUST 1973). (REF B). SCIENCE  
PORTION THUS CONTINUES TO PREPRESENT ABOUT 20 PER CENT OF NATO'S  
CIVIL BUDGET.

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2. IN SEPTEMBER 1972 COUNCIL APPROVED SC PAPER (C-5871)82)

GIVING UPDATED PICTURE OF SCIENCE PROGRAM IN RELATION TO ALLIANCE AS A WHOLE AND OFFERING RECOMMENDATIONS FOR CONTINUED SUPPORT. COUNCIL APPROVAL WAS QUALIFIED WITH THE UNDERSTANDING THAT FUNDING OF THE SCIENCE PROGRAM WOULD FOLLOW NORMAL BUDGETARY PROCEDURES AND THAT EXACT AMOUNTS WOULD BE DECIDED EACH YEAR IN RELATION TO ALL REQUIREMENTS IN THE NATO CIVIL BUDGET AND TO THE TOTAL FUNDS AVAILABLE (SEE C-R(72)40 DATED SEPTEMBER 22, 1972).

3. IN THIS CONNECTION, FRG FINANCIAL COUNSELOR (MASSBERG) HAS APPROACHED MISSION OFFICER TO EXPRESS DOUBTS ABOUT PRESENT LEVEL OF SUPPORT FOR NATO'S SCIENCE PROGRAM IN NATO'S CIVIL BUDGET AND HAS EVEN QUESTIONED JUSTIFICATION FOR CONTINUATION OF SUCH A PROGRAM IN NATO. HE WOULD FAVOR HOLDING 1975 FUNDING TO THE SAME LEVEL AS 1974, WHICH HE RECOGNIZED WOULD BE A REDUCTION IN REAL TERMS PROPORTIONAL TO INFLATION. ON THE OTHER HAND, WE UNDERSTAND THAT FRG REP TO SC (WHO LED SC DRAFTING GROUP WHICH PREPARED 1972 REPORT FOR THE COUNCIL) EXPECTS INSTRUCTIONS FROM HIS GOVERNMENT TO SUPPORT 1975 SCIENCE PROGRAM BUDGET AS PROPOSED. THUS, MASSBERG MAY BE EXPRESSING ONLY MINISTRY OF FINANCE VIEW. EVEN SO, US REPS SHOULD HAVE CURRENT GUIDANCE WITH WHICH TO RESPOND TO SUCH QUESTIONS IF RAISED ON INSTRUCTED BASIS IN SCIENCE COMMITTEE, OR LATER, IN CIVIL BUDGET COMMITTEE.

4. IN THE 1972 COUNCIL DISCUSSIONS OF THE SCIENCE PROGRAM AND SUBSEQUENTLY, THE US EXPRESSED STRONG SUPPORT FOR THE NATO SCIENCE PROGRAM (WHICH RESULTED LARGELY FROM US INITIATIVE) AND ITS IMPORTANCE

TO THE ALLIANCE. MISSION SEES NO PRESENT NEED FOR ANOTHER FUNDAMENTAL

REAPPRAISAL AT THIS STAGE AT NATO OF THE SCIENCE PROGRAM SUCH AS WAS UNDERTAKEN BY THE COUNCIL IN 1972, CONCLUSIONS OF WHICH, IN OUR VIEW, STILL STAND. NONETHELESS, IN PREPARING US POSITION FOR SC MEETING ON PROPOSED SCIENCE PROGRAM BUDGET, AND IN ANTICIPATION

OF SUBSEQUENT CONSIDERATION OF SCIENCE BUDGET REQUEST IN CIVIL BUDGET COMMITTEE, DEPARTMENT SHOULD REFLECT ON SIZE AND PRESENT CHARACTER OF SCIENCE PROGRAM AND ITS PLACE IN THE OVERALL NATO SCHEME OF THINGS. WE BELIEVE THAT CONTINUING US SUPPORT SHOULD BE BASED UPON A FAVORABLE ASSESSMENT OF CONTRIBUTION  
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MADE BY THIS PROGRAM IN NATO TO FURTHERANCE OF CURRENT, MORE BROADLY CONCEIVED US ATLANTIC RELATIONS POLICY GOALS, AS WELL AS A POSITIVE EVALUATION OF PROGRAM'S SCIENTIFIC MERITS. FROM MISSION'S PERSPECTIVE, NATO SCIENCE PROGRAM SUCCESSFULLY MEETS BOTH CRITERIA.

5. MISSION RECOMMENDATION: WE THEREFORE RECOMMEND THAT AT FORTHCOMING

SC MEETING US REP SUPPORT SCIENCE PROGRAM AT A CONSTANT LEVEL  
OF ACTIVITY AND QUALITY, AS PROPOSED IN DOCUMENT AC/137-D/540,  
ALLOWING BUDGETARY INCREASES ONLY AS NECESSARY TO COVER HIGHER  
COSTS DUE TO INFLATION. PROPOSED CONTINUATION OF EXISTING (SINCE  
1971) PROVISION FOR FULL-TIME CONSULTANT ON SCIENCE PROGRAM  
IS PERSONNEL ARRANGEMENT WORKDED OUT IN PAST TO ENABLE SCIENCE  
DIVISION TO MEET NEEDS OF PROGRAM WORKLOAD. WE BELIEVE REQUEST  
REASONABLE AND RECOMMEND THAT US REP TO SC SUPPORT ITS APPROVAL.  
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